

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TUNIS 00643 021120Z

11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-11 IO-14 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-11 OMB-01

DRC-01 FEA-02 TRSE-00 ACDA-19 IGA-02 COME-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 AGR-20 (ISO) W

----- 047264

R 021040Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4370

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 0643

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TS, LY

SUBJ: NOUIRA INTRODUCES CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

ON MERGER: PLENARY DEBATE SCHEDULED BEGIN FEBRUARY 5.

REF: TUNIS 623.

1. SUMMARY: IN SPEECH TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FEB 1,
PM HEDI NOUIRA INTRODUCED PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CONSTI-
TUTION TO MODIFY ARTICLE 2 CONCERNING MAGHREB UNITY
BY ADDING REFERENDUM PROCEDURE (FBIS SHOULD HAVE TEXT).
HE ALSO USED SPEECH TO TRY REASSURE MAGHREBLNEIGHBORS
THAT UNION WILL BE PURSUED IN MAGHREB CONTEXT, THAT IT
WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT CONSENSUS OF MAGHREB
COUNTRIES AND ABOVE ALL IT WILL NOT BE DIRECTED AGAINST
ANY COUNTRY OF REGION. HE ENDED SPEECH WITH APPEAL
FOR NATIONAL UNITY DURING PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TUNIS 00643 021120Z

LIBYA. PRIOR TO SPEECH, PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ANNOUNCED THAT PLENARY DEBATE ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT WOULD BEGIN FEB 5. PROPOSED AMENDMENT, IF ADOPTED, COULD HAVE EFFECT OF DELAYING REFERENDUM INDEFINITELY. END SUMMARY.

2. PM NOUIRA, READING FROM PREPARED TEXT IN FORTY-FIVE MINUTE SPEECH, PRESENTED FOLLOWING AS PROPOSED SECOND PARAGRAPH OF ARTICLE 2 OF CONSTITUTION: "TREATIES CONCLUDED AND WHICH WILL BE OF THE NATURE TO BRING ABOUT ANY MODIFICATION OF THE PRESENT CONSTITUTION WILL BE SUBMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC TO AN REFERENDUM AFTER THEIR ADOPTION BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY UNDER THE FORMS AND CONDITIONS PROVIDED FOR BY THE CONSTITUTION.⁵ NOUIRA THEN EXPLAINED THAT WHILE SOVEREIGNTY COMES FROM THE PEOPLE, IN CONSTITUTION PEOPLE DELEGATED THEIR SOVEREIGNTY TO REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND IT NOW UP TO LATTER TO RETURN SOVEREIGNTY TO PEOPLE IN FORM OF REFERENDUM.

3. NOUIRA WENT ON AT LENGTH TO EXPLAIN THAT TUNISIAN DESTINY IS TIED TO GREATER MAGHREB, AND JERBA PROCLAMATION IS IMPORTANT STEP TOWARDS THIS OBJECTIVE. HE REITERATED FON MIN CHATTI STATEMENT THAT TUNISIA WOULD NOT ENGAGE IN ANY UNION WITHOUT CONSENT OF MAGHREB PARTIES. EVEN LESS WOULD UNION BE DIRECTED AGAINST ANY COUNTRY OF THAT REGION. HE ADDED THAT GREATER MAGHREB WOULD BE REALIZED BY STEPS. NOUIRA EXPLAINED THAT TUNISIAN NATIONAL COMMISSION, OVER WHICH HE WILL PRESIDE AND WHICH WILL INCLUDE MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT, SOME DEPUTIES OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND SOME REPRESENTATIVES OF PARTY AND OF NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, WILL DEFINE QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS TO SERVE AS BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH LIBYA ON "CONTENT" OF UNION. IT IMPLIED BUT NOT STATED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL RESULT IN TREATY TO BE SUBMITTED TO ASSEMBLY. HE SAID THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN AT DATE WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN FIXED. NATIONAL COMMISSION WILL ALSO CONSIDER POSSIBLE APPROACHES FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER MAGHREB COUNTRIES.;

4. CONCLUDING, NOUIRA MADE APPEAL FOR ALL TUNISIANS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TUNIS 00643 021120Z

FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO JOIN TOGETHER TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA IN LONG PROCESS TOWARDS UNION IN ORDER TO PRESENT UNIFIED POSITION ON UNITY QUESTION. HE SAID, "IN SOLEMN MOMENT WHEN FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN IS IN QUESTION, WE MUST ACT WITH FULL CONSCIOUSNESS OF OUR RESPONSIBILITIES, FORGET OUR DIFFERENCES, PUT ASIDE OUR DISPUTES AND SILENCE ALL THAT WHICH DIVIDES US." HE SAID THIS IS

ONLY WAY THAT TUNISIA COULD SAFEGUARD WHAT SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS HAVE STRUGGLED FOR.

5. COMMENT: AMENDMENT ON REFERENDUM AS PROPOSED BY NOUIRA SUGGESTS THAT EVEN IF REFERENDUM PROCEDURE IS LEGALIZED, ACTUAL REFERENDUM REGARDING LIBYA COULD BE POSTPONED INDEFINITELY SINCE EVIDENTLY TREATY XMUST FIRST BE NEGOTIATED AND THEN RATIFIED BY ASSEMBLY. (TO OUR UNDERSTANDING, JERBA AGREEMENT NO CONSIDERED A "TREATY.") LOCAL REACTION TO SPEECH NOT YET KNOWN. HOWEVER, OPENING OF DEBATE ON FEB 5 COULD GIVE GOOD INDICATION OF WHETHER APPEAL FOR UNITY AND PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR AMENDMENT ARE ACCEPTABLE TO MAJORITY OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. UNITY APPEAL NO DOUBT ADDRESSED PARTICULARLY TO LIBERAL FACTION OF PSD AS WELL AS TO MASMOUDI SUPPORTERS. REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF EITHER GROUP WILL RESPOND POSITIVELY TO OHIS APPEAL IN PRESENT SITUATION. IF LIBYANS HAD ANY DOUBTS ABOUT HOW LONG IT MIGHT BE BEFORE REFERENDUM COULD BE ORGANIZED, BELIEVE NOUIRA'S LATEST STATEMENT CAN ONLY LEAD THEM TO CONCLUDE THAT REFERENDUM IS UNLIKELY FOR SOME TIME.
SEELYE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FEDERATION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, AGREEMENTS, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM, NEGOTIATIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TUNIS00643
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740259/aaaacdol.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TUNIS 623.
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOUIRA INTRODUCES CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON MERGER: PLENARY DEBATE SCHEDULED BEGIN FEBRUARY 5.
TAGS: PFOR, TS, LY, (NOUIRA, HEDI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005